

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 149885  
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 ICA-11 /093 R

DRAFTED BY HA:FASIEVERTS:LIF  
APPROVED BY HA:FASIEVERTS  
EA/VLC - MR. BROWN  
-----047412 140455Z /21

R 132011Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SHUM, ICRC, VN

SUBJECT:ICRC MISSION TO VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 125818; B. HONG KONG 6807 (BOTH NOTAL)

SUMMARY: RECENT ICRC MISSION TO VIETNAM INCLUDED VISIT TO  
CAMBODIA-VIETNAM BORDER AND INTERVIEWS WITH SOME 200 CAM-  
BODIAN POW'S AT A CAMP NEAR SAIGON. ICRC REPS ALSO SAW SRV  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

1. ICRC REP TO UN IN NEW YORK MICHEL VEUTHEY HAS PROVIDED  
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PAGE 02 STATE 149885

FOLLOWING INFO TO DEPARTMENT ABOUT HIS VISIT TO VIETNAM  
MAY 17-29 DURING WHICH HE VISITED CAMBODIAN POW'S DURING  
THREE-DAY TOUR OF BORDER AREAS. VEUTHEY WAS ACCOMPANIED ON  
TRIP BY ANDRE PASQUIER, ASSISTANT TO INCRD DIRECTOR OF OPER-  
ATIONS, AND BY FRANCOIS ZEN RUFFIN, ICRC DELEGATE IN HANOI.

2. VEUTHEY SAID THE CAMBODIAN POW'S WERE HELD AT A CAMP AT

XUAN LOC NEAR SAIGON. PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS DESCRIBED IN TRADITIONAL ICRC TERMS AS "PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE" FOR POW'S AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS.

3. ICRC REPS HAD INTERVIEW WITH NGUYEN CO THACH, WHO SAID SRV WANTS TO COMPLY IN SUBSTANCE WITH GENEVA CONVENTIONS,

BUT DID NOT WISH TO CALL THE BORDER CONFLICT A "WAR," SINCE THIS WOULD VIOLATE PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP AMONG SOCIALIST NATIONS. THACH INDICATED HE HOPED ICRC WOULD NOT BE TOO "LEGALISTIC" ABOUT APPLICABILITY OF THE CONVENTIONS, STATING "IT IS IN OUR POLITICAL INTEREST TO ABIDE BY THE LAW ON THIS SUBJECT."

4. ICRC REPS ALSO SAW TROOPS MOVING REFUGEES, AND PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION IN THE BORDER AREAS OF TAY NINH AND AN GIANG PROVINCES. THEY WERE GIVEN RELATIVELY UNRESTRICTED OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL, AND DID NOT THINK THEY WERE BEING USED OVERTLY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. THEY TRAVELLED WITH UNHCR REPS HAN AND CUENOD DURING PART OF THEIR VISIT TO THE SOUTH, AND CROSSED PATHS AND SHARED TRANSPORTATION WITH AMERICAN CHURCH WORLD SERVICE GROUP IN VIETNAM DURING SAME PERIOD (AS REPORTED IN REF B).

5. ICRC REP ZEN RUFFIN IS CURRENTLY IN SAIGON ARRANGING NEW FLIGHTS FOR CHINESE REFUGEES TO TAIWAN, ONE OF WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 149885

DEPARTED JUNE 9, WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POW, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PRISONERS WELFARE, VISITS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE149885  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FASIEVERTS:LIF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780247-0981  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** f8bebc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 125818, 78 HONG KONG 6807  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2369322  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICRC MISSION TO VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** SHUM, VN, CB, ICRC  
**To:** GENEVA USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014